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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY, USDA

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Secretary Dan Glickman  
Department of Agriculture  
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Independence Avenue Southwest  
Washington, DC 20250



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CC: President William J. Clinton

Dear Secretary Glickman:

I am writing to let you know that I am strongly opposed to genetically engineered crops. We should not punish the Europeans or any other countries for their stance. I think they are making the sensible choice of excluding these crops from their diet, it is their choice and many Americans agree with them. It is not "scientifically unfounded", as you put it that there should be distrust of these crops. I feel these crops should be banned, but since they are already here, genetically engineered and altered foods should be labeled. The consumer has the right to choose, don't you agree? Food labeling is a good thing and should not be feared.

I read in the "Saint Paul Pioneer Press" a quote from you, "with all that biotechnology has to offer, it is nothing if it's not accepted" by consumers, which you stated at the National Press Club, which I heard part of that speech. This is so untrue. The majority does not accept it, at all. After reading the article in the newspaper and hearing part of your speech, it was so obvious that you have been listening to the big corporations, such as Monsanto, companies that will profit from the sales of genetically engineered crops.

There is much evidence to prove the case against genetic engineering, as there is against hormones in animals, but I don't think you have heard it all. I think further research is needed before you make decisions that will affect our country and others down the road. I think the study on the Monarch Butterfly should be a wake up call to you, as well as, the damage blown seeds from genetically engineered crops, will do to native plants. In Minnesota, people have destroyed many of our native plant species and their habitat. Now they are trying to restore these habitats for our future health. We should not be messing around with this.

I have a book to recommend to you that will give you a different point of view; it is called "Biopiracy - The Plunder of Nature and Knowledge" by Vandana Shiva. This book will give you some insight to the problem and give you the big picture.

I hope to hear from you. I have heard all the rhetoric, but I want you to know that I have done my homework. I urge you to not promote genetically engineered crops and move towards crops that are not genetically engineered or altered, such as heirloom varieties.

Most Respectfully,

*Terri Palmquist*

Terri Palmquist

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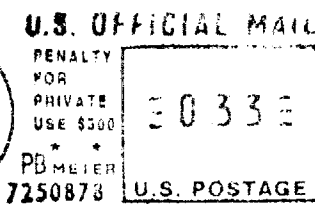
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United States Department of Agriculture

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